

Remarks / Arguments

New claims 30-68 have been drafted by removing multiple dependencies in order to comply with 37 CFR 1.75(c).

After renumbering, the groups of inventions referred to in the Office Action dated August 19, 2003 are now as follows:

- Group I: claims 30-54, directed to a polypeptide which possesses an activity of the β -secretase type, pharmaceutical compositions containing said polypeptide and methods of treatment using said polypeptide;
- Group II: claims 55-67, directed to a method for detecting molecules, molecules so detected, pharmaceutical compositions comprising molecules so detected;
- Group III: claim 68, directed to a vector.

Restriction was requested under 35 USC 121.

Group I (claims 30-54) is indicated as provisional election.

The restriction requirement is respectfully traversed.

Groups I, II and III are believed to be linked via a single inventive concept: they all correspond to a special technical feature within the meaning of Rule 13 PCT, because the polypeptides with β -secretase activity according to the invention very clearly define a contribution over the prior art. For example, the substrate cleaved by the polypeptides according to the invention **does not exhibit any mutation in its peptide sequence**, and in particular, the β -amyloid peptide precursor **does not carry the double Swedish mutation** (see page 10, lines 3-8). This totally unexpected effect is further demonstrated in Example 3 of the specification, and **undoubtedly constitutes a contribution over the prior art**.

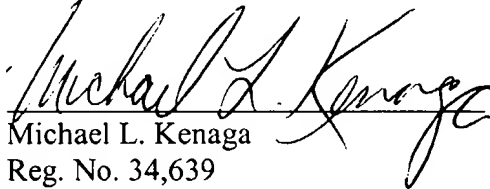
It is thus respectfully requested that the above cited restriction requirement be withdrawn.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the actions on the merits should be carried out on claims 30-68.

The undersigned is filing the subject amendment under 37 CFR 1.34(a). A Power of Attorney expressly appointing the undersigned and changing the correspondence address is expected to be filed shortly.

No fee is thought to be due in conjunction with the submission of this Amendment. However, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 18-2284 of Piper Rudnick LLP, duplicate copy attached.

Respectfully submitted,


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